

**DR. WILSON REPLIES
TO EDITOR MOORE
AND MR. GUNTHER.**

I would not write what I am now going to say if I did not think it for the best interests of The Blade, and if both Mr. Moore and Mr. Gunther had not misrepresented me in the last issue, I will briefly reply to Mr. Gunther, as I do not care particularly for what he said.

He says: "Mr. Wilson says that the Swiss people are mostly Anarchists and Socialists." I said no such thing. I said that "The dominating factions in Switzerland are Socialistic and Anarchistic," which is true.

The French people are 80 per cent. Catholic, but the dominating faction there are Socialists, and every Socialist is a Freethinker. The same influence prevails in Switzerland. It is the refuge, the dump place of nearly every Russian patriot, and there he is protected. Why? Because the powers that be are friendly to him. In no country in the world are the economic questions more carefully studied than in Switzerland. Socialistic organizations are numerous; the book stores find ready sale for Socialistic literature. It was the first country in the world to give us the referendum, which is evidence enough of the Socialistic influence there. Socialists all over the world point to Switzerland as an example of Socialistic government.

Mr. Gunther further says: "Politically Mr. Wilson is blind. He can see no good except in Socialism." Is that because I don't look at all times through his glasses?

I have seen a god deal of Mr. Gunther's writings, and I admire his abilities. He puts up a good argument against Socialism, and that is all he writes about, and seemingly all that occupies his mind. There is no person more hopelessly blind than one whose horizon is limited to one idea.

All The Blade readers know that I have repeatedly stated that I believed that the full objects expected to be attained by Socialism, are impracticable and will never be wholly realized. I have said that good and evil are about equally divided; that imperfect man will never be able to formulate a perfect government; that I favored that party which is most progressive, and which, in my mind, will give the most happiness to the most people.

No matter what party you attach yourself to, you will encounter weaknesses and blunders. Freethinkers themselves could not possibly agree

dom. Socialism is the only party organized today in the interests of the politically and religiously oppressed. It has its dreamers and enthusiasts. It will never be able to reach its ideals, but it is a step ahead of bigotry and aristocracy and militarism and monopoly and that tyranny which is murderously opposed to all phases of freedom.

Who is the blind man? He who still allies himself with the selfishness and cruelties and tyranny and gloom, wrapped up in the old order of this s. or he who is able to perceive a new light breaking in upon the centuries of oppression and darkness?

The Freethinker has no party of his own. All parties have their imperfections. He is placed in the position of being compelled to choose between parties not of his own making. Which shall he take?

The parties which stand for Kingcraft, priestcraft, militarism and monopoly, or that young vital party, which, with all its dreams and ideals, opposes these cruelties?

Talk about being blind! Why a man born blind ought to be able to see farther than either Mr. Moore or Mr. Gunther. Upon this subject both of these very good men are like a turtle, with its head off, keeps walking around without knowing it is dead.

Mr. Gunther further says: "The Genoa woman sized Mr. Wilson up and stuffed him to his full capacity. I do not believe that there is a word of truth in what she told him about King Humbert."

Mr. Gunther then proceeds to tell of several occasions, when he saw Humbert in Rome and of the homage paid him by the people, by uncovering their heads and bowing, and how such great respect induced him each time to take off his hat. Well, of course, people are different. D—d if I would have taken my hat off to him just because a lot of ignorant minds, enslaved by centuries of oppression, grovelled in front of that monkey faced majesty. No! By heaven, I would have kept my hat on my American head and pitted the grovellers. The sight of a King in any shape would awaken in me thoughts of all the ignorance, cruelty and oppression required to maintain the principle of might over right. I would have seen in my imagination ten million, white, bloody, ghastly, upturned faces, slain in battle to maintain the throne of Italy,

and by the gods, I could not have lifted my hat.

People whose individuality is crushed by authority are given to lifting hats. Mr. Gunther ought to know that for centuries the Italian people have been taught by the priests to bow to authority; that the lifting of hats over there is like something automatic. Why they will lift their hats to the King and curse him with the next breath. I had more hats lifted to me in Italy than in all my life before. It is not unlikely that Mr. Gunther, when in Rome ten or fifteen years ago, left a little for later travelers to find out.

The Italy of ten years ago is not the Italy of today. Fifty people speak out today where one spoke then. The Rome Congress is indicative of the mighty change which has taken place.

As to the woman who "sized me up and stuffed me to my full capacity," I will say that I do not believe that such was her motive, and that I do not think I am so easily stuffed. I gave her story as she told it to me for what it was worth. To me it was very significant that a woman, educated, wealthy, a linguist, a traveler, a society woman, should so boldly express herself in a public place, and all the more so when her statement led me to question others who corroborated what she said.

If a poor and oppressed individual had made that statement, I would not have given it so much weight, but coming from the better class—from those whose natural sympathies are with wealth and authority—it had the ring of truth and I believe what she said is the truth. I believe it from other testimony I cannot record here. I heard right in the Congress of Rome; others, high in public esteem, denounce the vices of royalty and priestcraft.

This statement about King Humbert is mild compared to some of the stories of the licentiousness of courts. It would be blasphemy in some minds were the old time gaities of the Prince of Wales be rehearsed today now that he is a King—a holy and sacred person. They would swear that it was "all rot." True or false, it reveals just what I intended to reveal, that among the educated and enlightened the King is no longer a sacred individual in Italy, and that they do not fear publicly to criticize and condemn him.

Now as to Mr. Moore's stand against Socialism, there is no danger of his keeping the subject out of The Blade, for if no one else writes about it he will himself. Two weeks ago I stopped it myself. I gave Mr. Gunther's letter, and as I gave him a chance to give Socialism a knock, he flopped over his own resolution, and in it went. He gave an excuse that it was an "evening up" on the subject. I don't see where the "evening up" comes in. I had no discussion with Mr. Gunther or anyone else on the subject of Socialism. Mr. Gunther only disputed two of my statements, one of which he did not quote correctly.

Mr. Moore also states that I said "the Swiss people are Socialists and Anarchists." I didn't say any such thing. He would better throw away his bifocals and consult an optician. I had intended writing something in the interest of The Blade, or rather point out the caused which have contributed to its present condition and show how they might be remedied, but find that I haven't the time. J. B. W.

STILL FURTHER ABOUT ALFRED ROSE, THE ST. LOUIS INFIDEL CRIMINAL.

I have been sent the St. Louis Post-Dispatch of October 22. It contains a large picture and long account of the killing of Alfred Rose, and the other ex-convict pals that he had with him, while they killed two brave officers and wounded, probably mortally, a third one.

Rose was the only criminal that I ever knew of who took this paper, excepting some who are now in penitentiary and take it, who may be or may not be, criminals.

I believe there may be some cases in which convicts are better men than the judges and jurors who convict them.

But there seems to be no reasonable doubt that the man Rose, was a thorough villain.

I hope what I here say will be printed by prison papers.

I am not stuck up about anything except the fact that I have been in the penitentiary.

I have been in a variety of jails and had a nice time in them, but I am prouder of having been in the penitentiary than anything of my life, and if I had to give up my experience in the Columbus penitentiary, and my book "Behind the Bars, 31498," and my memories of dear old warden Coffin, good man but awful gloomy name—or give up my tour to the Orient and "Dog Fennel" that I wrote about it, it would be hard for me to decide between them.

My life never could have been complete without both of these. I know that, to many, it may sound silly in me to be proud of having been in the penitentiary, but when I think of how many great and good men have been prisoners, and of how many rascals there are, who never were in prison, I can not help being proud of having been in the penitentiary, and I hope that my friends will forgive me for it.

Now I am getting to be an old man and soon the last lock-up time will come to me, and I will go into the sleep that knows no waking, and I want to say this to all prisoners where ever they may be, to whom this may come.

Be just as good as you can be, all the time and to every body, and though you may not be happy you will be as near it as you can be, and it will make mighty little difference on which side of penitentiary walls you are.

Among politicians the "outs" are always trying to get "in," and among convicts the "ins," are always trying to get "out," and it shows that men of equal intelligence and equal integrity, are not always satisfied whether they are "in" or "out." But, any way, be as good as you can be, and then you will be as happy as you can be.

**A DOCTOR AND HIS WIFE.
In a Dying Condition From not Having Read "Dog Fennel."**

Smithland, Iowa—Enclosed find \$5 for one year's past subscription and one year's future for your devilish, infidel, good-for-nothing paper.

Please continue its publication up to its full of nothingness. It will, no doubt, in time, be looked upon as containing the whole truth, even by ignorant Christians.

I want to see your paper the leading paper of all the world.

The next \$1.25 will be sent you for "Dog Fennel," as my wife and I are nearly dead for want of reading it.—DR. L. S. STOLL.

This is an unusually sad case, but I believe that all people who do not read "Dog Fennel" will die.

Joliet, Ill., Dec. 16, 1904.
Blue Grass Blade.

Mr. Editor—Enclosed find P. O. order for one dollar to advance my subscription for another year (1905).

I wish to call your attention to the ninth verse of the seventh chapter of Ecclesiastes, which reads, "Be not hasty to be angry, for anger becometh the bosom of fools."

I have read the seventh verse of the seventh chapter of Ecclesiastes, and I am with the righteous, and God with the wicked every day.

I hope to see the Blade back to full size again soon. — LOUIS CALAIS.

I suppose the passage about getting angry is intended as a rebuke to me, and I suppose I deserve it.

I thank you for calling my attention to it, and hope I may improve in that respect. I try to overcome it but it's hard for me to do so.

Little Hickman, Ky.—Push up my tab to September, 1905, for the \$1.00 I handed you.

I am glad you have adopted the plan of cutting off all dead heads.

All the dead heads I ever had anything to do with were Christians.

A Liberal who takes a paper and refuses to pay for it is as much a wolf in sheep's clothing as a Christian who does not even try to pay his debts.

Prosperity, merry Christmas and happy New Year to you.

Fraternally,
J. W. OVERSTREET.

Columbia Cross Roads, Pa.—Please find enclosed \$3.00 for the following persons.

We all like your paper and hope to see it sustained.

We are doing a good work. Teaching independence of thought and the principles upon which this government is founded.

I am sorry to see the drifting away from the principles by the church and the press of to-day—the great majority, at least, and I feel that sustaining you is sustaining liberty. Success to you.

Fraternally,
E. D. BENEDICT.

Idana, Kansas—Deuteronomy 11.4 says God is not the author of evil. Isaiah 14.7 says: "I (God) make peace and create evil." Isaiah 42.13 says: "The Lord is a mighty man and stirreth up strife." In Jeremiah 48.10, God says: "Cursed be every one that keepeth back his sword from blood." Yet we are commanded to love God with all our heart.

Who could love a blood thirsty Jew God that destroyed whole nations of innocent people, and made his soldiers rob them, and dash out the brains of their infants, and keep their maidens for the lust of the soldiers? I see that you are going to drop all delinquents. That's right. If they



can't pay for The Blade you cannot afford to spend your time and money to furnish it to them.

Drop them and give us a full-sized paper. If it costs more I am willing to do my part. THOMAS DUELL.

ABOUT THE ROSE MATTER.

The following letters are self-explanatory:

St. Louis, 12-6, 1904.

Johansen Bros. Shoe Company, City: Gentlemen—Can you give me the present address of A. G. Rose, formerly in your employ? Find stamped envelope enclosed. Thanking you in advance for reply, I am yours, etc., L. WILEY.

On the back of this letter was endorsed the following:

"This man was killed by detectives at 1326 Pine street, about two months ago. We can hardly acquaint you with his present address."

Miss Wiley's letter to me is as follows:

St. Louis, Dec. 19, 1904.

Blue Grass Blade, Lexington, Ky: Gentlemen—I have investigated that A. G. Rose matter and find that he was indeed one of the train robbers killed here two months ago. I enclose you my letter to his employers and answer thereto, and I am also mailing you a paper containing story of the battle. The man referred to as Al Rose is the same as A. G. Rose.

Had I noticed this at time of the tragedy, I would have called at the morgue to assure myself. However, I knew Rose and knew he worked some times at this shoe factory. He was a McKay operator. He assured me he would attend the Freethought convention on October 22. He was killed on the 21st. Rose was some times out of town. Some times spoke of working elsewhere, going on hunting trips, etc. Now, Brother Moore, please don't say again there are no criminals among Infidels. Let us be honest. A religious or non-religious belief will not make an honest heart. We want our ranks filled with good people, but we have others with us, so let us admit it. Yours very truly, ELIZABETH WILEY.

This shows plainly that an Infidel may be a criminal, but it also shows that Infidels are not inclined to hide the fact when an Infidel is found among us.

PASTOR ON RACK.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 30.—Methodist church circles here are intensely interested in the trial of the Rev. F. P. Blakemore, prominent pastor which is in progress before a jury of preachers

and lay members in Tecumseh.

Blakemore was formerly stationed in Tecumseh, but recently has been occupying a pulpit in Weeping Waters.

The charges are signed by a dozen leading Tecumseh citizens, specifying the use of obscene and profane language and immorality.

Evangelist to Pay Woman \$250.

Springfield, Ill., October 23.—The action of Mrs. Maggie E. Cummins, ex-rel. Miss Oletta Graham against Rev. W. J. Thompson, which has been of a highly sensational character, has been settled by the payment of \$250 by the defendant. Sensational charges made in the arguments of the attorneys almost precipitated a fight in the circuit court-room.

Thompson is an aged traveling evangelist and has a wife and children. He is charged with having been unlawfully intimate with Miss Graham

TO DELINQUENTS.

Some time ago I wrote Mr. Hughes to come to Cincinnati, and explain the financial condition of the Blade to me. He came yesterday and in looking over the list I found over 2,000 in arrears. Some of these, about 400, he has carried for two years and over. Now you know that paper and postage cost money, that labor costs, that Hughes has been clicking away at the linotype while many of you have been sleeping. All of this expense is a dead loss if you do not pay him. Is this just?

He can't afford to carry you longer. Why should you expect it? I asked him not to drop any one just yet, for I don't want to see the prestige of the paper lowered. You need the paper—you would miss it if it did not come to you. The paper needs you. It needs your support. The contributors need you. It takes the heart out of us when we know that our writings go to only a few.

Now won't you help the Blade out? Won't you help keep the cause alive. Never in our history have we made such progress as we are making now. Shall we let the fire smoulder, or keep our lights shining bright and high.

I am satisfied most of you are in arrears just from pure neglect. You, think time and again: "Now I'll send that dollar the next time I go to the office," and then you forget it. Now put your thinking caps on. Don't drop out; let us all stand together.

Hughes has a big exchange list. He carries a free list of over 200 old people who are unable to pay a cent and to whom the Blade is a weekly comfort and happiness. All this costs. Won't you help keep the Blade going to these. He will have to drop all delinquents or drop the paper. I want

neither done. I feel that you will not forget this when you go to the office the next time. Yours sincerely, J. B. WILSON.

PRESBYTERY REINSTATES PROMINENT CLERGYMAN

New York, Dec. 30.—The Rev. Dr. Samuel T. Carter, one of the three Presbyterian clergymen who started the movement which led to the revision of the Presbyterian creed in America and whom many Presbyterians desired to see put on trial for heresy was reinstated by the Nassau County Presbytery today at a meeting in Jamaica, L. I. Rev. Dr. Carter made a somewhat dramatic appeal in which he bitterly condemned the Westminster confession and declared that "scholastic theology is wrong from its base upward."

Send in your dollar and keep the Blade coming to your address.

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Passenger Traffic Department, Commercial Building, Saint Louis.

WANTED—Salesmen, local and general, reaching the pump and well supply trade on recently patented well specialties of great merit. Hills & Sons Co., Medina, Wm.